



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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ANN KILLETS
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

ARTHUR C. JOHNSON, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members
School District of Palm Beach County

FROM: Ann Killets *AK*
Chief Academic Officer

THROUGH: Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D.
Superintendent

DATE: August 13, 2008

SUBJECT: **FY2008 ACT RESULTS**

The Department of Research and Evaluation (DRE) has completed an analysis of the FY2008 ACT High School Profile Report for participating seniors in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), Florida, and the Nation. Individual schools and districts can use the ACT results from multiple years to conduct self-evaluation and self-comparisons. However, caution should be used in making comparisons between local, state, and national results because the percentage of students taking the ACT in a school district, a state, or the Nation may vary.

Overall, from FY2007 to FY2008, the District participation rate showed a large increase, while the average composite score decreased slightly. The large increase in participation rate occurred in all subgroups.

- ◆ From FY2007 to FY2008, the number of Black test takers increased by 35% (1,177 to 1,585) and the number of White test takers increased by 26% (1,546 to 1,941), and yet the average composite score for both groups remained constant.
- ◆ From FY2007 to FY2008, the number of Hispanic test takers had the largest increase of 67% (545 to 909), and yet their average composite score was not statistically different.
- ◆ From FY2007 to FY2008, the SDPBC had a large increase in participation rate (from 40% to 47%). The State also had a large increase in participation rate from FY2007 to FY2008 (from 53% to 57%), while the Nation remained about the same (from 42% to 43%).
- ◆ In FY2008, the average composite score of the SDPBC (19.6) was slightly lower than in FY2007 (19.8).

It is difficult to interpret recent changes in composite scores because the participation rates for the SDPBC have increased dramatically in the last two years. In the future, the DRE will analyze the ACT data to understand better the impact of the changes in participation rates on average ACT scores.

The attached Tables 1 and 2 contain data pertaining to the participation rates and the average composite scores for participating seniors in the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation. Table 3 contains the data for Black, Hispanic, and White seniors in the SDPBC.

These results will be shared with appropriate staff. Also, schools have received information about their ACT test takers and will use this information in the school improvement planning process.

For questions concerning the ACT, please contact Dean Stecker, Director of the Department of Research and Evaluation (432-6376). For information regarding District initiatives that are being implemented to increase student performance, please contact Constance Tuman-Rugg, Assistant Superintendent of the Division of Curriculum (357-1113). For questions concerning specific schools, contact the area superintendents or school principals.

ACJ:AK:MB:DS:BS:jl

c/attachments:

- Chief Academic/Operating Officers
- Chief of Performance Accountability
- Chief Public Information Officer
- Chief, Safety & Learning Environment
- Chief Technology Officer
- Area/Assistant Superintendents
- Academic Executive Directors/Directors
- High School Principals

Table 1. FY2004-FY2008 Number of College-Bound Senior ACT Test-Takers and Participation Rate by High School, the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

High School	Number of ACT Test Takers					Participation Rate				
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Atlantic	175	134	113	225	336	40%	36%	29%	46%	63%
Boca Raton	116	85	152	212	230	29%	24%	40%	44%	46%
Boynton Beach	58	84	73	112	150	17%	21%	24%	36%	49%
Dreyfoos School of the Arts	138	121	123	132	166	45%	43%	40%	44%	51%
Forest Hill	53	39	21	83	155	22%	16%	9%	25%	43%
Glades Central	119	164	127	155	200	68%	78%	62%	82%	99%
John I. Leonard	169	123	117	135	169	33%	28%	29%	34%	41%
Jupiter	128	144	194	269	305	33%	33%	36%	42%	44%
Lake Worth	211	187	223	241	260	41%	38%	46%	48%	54%
Olympic Heights	173	175	105	86	131	33%	34%	33%	29%	38%
Pahokee	62	47	68	54	99	61%	50%	72%	61%	93%
P.B. Central ^a	.	101	124	194	210	.	27%	28%	33%	38%
P. B. Gardens	105	132	150	269	281	22%	27%	30%	48%	55%
P. B. Lakes	89	110	110	188	257	20%	28%	28%	46%	62%
Park Vista ^b	.	.	114	197	303	.	.	27%	37%	39%
Royal Palm Beach	126	122	145	159	192	22%	21%	24%	30%	41%
Santaluces	132	164	134	225	295	22%	29%	31%	53%	62%
Seminole Ridge ^c	.	.	.	135	152	.	.	.	32%	33%
Spanish River	173	181	175	230	246	25%	31%	37%	44%	51%
Suncoast	142	136	173	173	218	45%	44%	52%	61%	70%
Wellington	219	220	280	238	248	30%	35%	40%	42%	46%
West Boca ^b	.	.	117	184	293	.	.	34%	41%	57%
William T. Dwyer	115	116	151	170	144	28%	29%	34%	42%	38%
SDPBC	2,591	2,694	3,105	4,334	5,331	29%	29%	32%	40%	47%
Florida	56,431	58,302	66,299	81,527	93,884	40%	41%	45%	53%	57%
Nation	1,171,460	1,186,251	1,206,455	1,300,599	1,421,941	40%	40%	40%	42%	43%

Participation rates for the SDPBC are determined by dividing the number of seniors who took the ACT by the total number of seniors in the second nine weeks. The participation rates for Florida and the Nation are based on results reported by the Florida Department of Education provided by ACT, Inc. ^a School opened in FY2004 without a senior class. ^b School opened in FY2005 without a senior class. ^c School opened in FY2006 without a senior class.

Table 2. FY2004-FY2008 ACT Average Composite Scores of College-Bound Senior ACT Test-Takers by High School, the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

High School	ACT Average Composite Scores				
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Atlantic	21.2	21.9	21.0	19.5	19.2
Boca Raton	20.6	21.4	20.3	20.5	20.8
Boynton Beach	19.4	17.4	16.5	16.1	15.3
Dreyfoos School of the Arts	22.9	23.4	23.5	23.5	24.2
Forest Hill	17.7	19.5	19.2	20.0	18.1
Glades Central	15.6	15.7	15.9	15.3	15.7
John I. Leonard	19.0	20.0	20.3	19.3	17.3
Jupiter	22.1	21.9	22.5	22.1	22.7
Lake Worth	19.2	18.7	18.2	18.0	18.5
Olympic Heights	21.8	22.0	21.2	21.4	20.3
Pahokee	15.9	15.5	16.2	16.5	15.4
P. B. Central ^a	.	19.2	20.5	20.6	19.9
P. B. Gardens	20.8	19.8	18.5	18.7	18.6
P. B. Lakes	17.6	16.5	16.2	16.1	16.2
Park Vista ^b	.	.	20.4	21.0	20.6
Royal Palm Beach	19.4	19.7	19.2	18.8	18.5
Santaluces	19.7	19.4	18.6	17.6	16.2
Seminole Ridge ^c	.	.	.	20.3	19.8
Spanish River	22.9	23.3	23.9	22.9	23.7
Suncoast	23.2	23.3	23.9	24.3	25.5
Wellington	21.7	22.7	21.9	22.9	22.0
West Boca ^b	.	.	21.2	21.6	22.2
William T. Dwyer	21.4	21.6	20.3	19.8	20.2
SDPBC	20.4	20.3	20.2	19.8	19.6
Florida	20.5	20.4	20.3	19.9	19.8
Nation	20.9	20.9	21.1	21.2	21.1

^a School opened in FY2004 without a senior class. ^b School opened in FY2005 without a senior class. ^c School opened in FY2006 without a senior class.

Table 3. FY2004-FY2008 SDPBC ACT Results for Black, Hispanic, and White Students

	Black					Hispanic					White				
Fiscal Year	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Number of Test Takers	673	772	814	1177	1585	345	354	378	545	909	1171	1186	1244	1546	1941
Participation Rate	29%	32%	33%	42%	53%	23%	22%	22%	27%	41%	25%	25%	26%	29%	36%
Average Composite Score	16.6	16.5	16.6	16.1	16.1	19.4	19.5	19.6	18.8	18.6	22.7	22.8	22.6	22.5	22.5

The participation rate for a disaggregated group is determined by dividing the number of seniors in a group who took the ACT by the total number of district seniors in the group in the second nine weeks.